

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/707,140
Docket NO.: 11413-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action also rejected claims 1, 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Laturell (U.S. 2004/0052242). The Office Action further rejected claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laturell in view of Ahn et al. (U.S. 2003/0021261) and Aponte et al. (U.S. 6,371,780). The Office Action rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laturell in view of Cassista et al. (U.S. 2002/0007459). Claims 2, 5 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

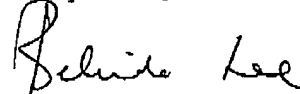
Applicants have canceled claim 2 and incorporated all limitations of allowable claim 2 into claim 1, which renders rejections set forth to claim 1 moot and claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants have also amended claim 5 to depend on amended claim 1. Claims 3-9, depending on amended claim 1, are also allowable.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1, 3-9 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,


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